STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19986

This bill would amend §20-518 to allow juveniles who have been waived to adult court to be placed in the general population of juvenile detention centers rather than be sight and sound separated from other juveniles or from adults in county jail facilities. The Juvenile Corrections Act (JCA) currently prohibits juveniles who have been waived to adult court from being housed in a juvenile detention facility with juveniles adjudicated under the JCA unless those being treated as adults are sight and sound separated. This means that these juveniles, recently as young as 12 or 14 years old, must be housed either segregated from other juveniles in a detention facility or in an adult jail, also with sight and sound isolation. It is in the best interests of these juveniles that they are allowed, at the court's discretion, to remain with juveniles their own age while awaiting trial, sentencing or other disposition. However, these juveniles may only remain in a juvenile general population if the detention administration determines that the safety and security of the other juveniles is not at risk.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact

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